

# Costa Rica

## Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

### FACT SHEET . . . . .



The Costa Rica GYTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Costa Rica could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Costa Rica GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 7-9, conducted in 1999. A two-stage cluster

sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Costa Rica. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 90.4%, and the overall response rate was 90.4%. A total of 4,623 students participated in the Costa Rica GYTS.

### Prevalence

46.4% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Male = 44.1%, Female = 48.6%)  
 22.6% currently use any tobacco product (Male = 21.5%, Female = 23.6%)  
 19.6% currently smoke cigarettes (Male = 19.1%, Female = 20.0%)  
 6.8% currently use other tobacco products (Male = 5.1%, Female = 8.3%)  
 18.8% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

### Knowledge and Attitudes

18.0% think boys and 14.9% think girls who smoke have more friends  
 5.4% think boys and 2.4% think girls who smoke look more attractive

### Access and Availability - Current Smokers

6.3% usually smoke at home  
 35.1% buy cigarettes in a store  
 73.7% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

### Environmental Tobacco Smoke

33.5% live in homes where others smoke  
 56.6% are around others who smoke in places outside their home  
 83.7% think smoking should be banned from public places  
 73.7% definitely think smoke from others is harmful to them  
 32.9% have one or more parents who smoke

### Cessation - Current Smokers

61.9% want to stop smoking  
 65.8% tried to stop smoking during the past year  
 26.3% have ever received help to stop smoking

### Media and Advertising

74.5% saw anti-smoking media messages, in the past 30 days  
 91.9% saw pro-cigarette ads on billboards, in the past 30 days  
 85.5% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines, in the past 30 days  
 13.4% have an object with a cigarette brand logo  
 7.8% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

### School

39.1% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking  
 32.5% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke  
 37.8% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

### Highlights

- 23% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 20% currently smoke cigarettes; 7% currently use some other form of tobacco.
- ETS exposure is very high – 1 in 3 students lives in a home where others smoke; almost 6 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; 1 in 3 have parents who smoke.
- 8 in 10 think smoking should be banned in public places.
- 7 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- 6 in 10 smokers want to stop.
- 7 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages in the past 30 days; 9 in 10 students saw pro-cigarette ads in the past 30 days.